



## Lodestar

*Michael F. Flynn*

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In the early years of the twenty-first century, humanity has progressed into space, having established a permanent presence with LEO (Low Earth Orbit) Station. Science and commerce in space are booming and humanity's future looks bright. But one man's desire for vindication and revenge could end it all.

Lodestar chronicles the complex conflicts-political, personal, and scientific-on Earth and in orbit, that must be resolved if humanity is to claim its destiny among the stars.

## **Lodestar Details**

Date : Published April 15th 2001 by Tor Science Fiction (first published 2000)

ISBN : 9780812542967

Author : Michael F. Flynn

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Genre : Science Fiction, Fiction

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## From Reader Review Lodestar for online ebook

### Richard says

The whole book is buildup and closure to some of the may characters in the story.

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### Shaft says

An excellent instalment in one of my favourite non tie in sci-fi series.

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### Kyra Dune says

I did not care for this book at all. It was much too heavy on the science for my taste.

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### Andreas says

Near future SciFi has seldom been done better. Flynn takes us on an epic journey only hinted at in the humble beginnings of the first book. A millionairess has a hidden fear, almost an obsession. She is afraid that an asteroid has the potential to wipe out humanity by striking the Earth. While her fear is no doubt well founded, it takes extreme expressions in her, and she uses her fortune to build up a huge aerospace industry. The series consists of:

- \* Firestar
- \* Rogue Star
- \* Lodestar
- \* Falling Stars

What really makes this series great is the variety and richness of the many characters (from the second book, a Dramatis Personae is thankfully provided). The antagonisms and alliances flow over decades as Flynn deftly describes human nature, and the many things which make up its facets. Many novels have (too) many characters, but in almost all cases the majority are not fully fleshed out and threedimensional. Flynn's wonderful character are these things. They have a past, motivations, goals and aspirations.

It is also quite remarkable how Flynn manages to weave together the many strands of his story into one whole, making this more than just a massive work of Science Fiction. It is, in fact, a story about ordinary people who, each in his or her own way, faces extraordinary personal and professional challenges in a changing society.

My only, very small, gripe with the series is how it loses a bit of steam in the third book. However, seen as a whole, the entire story is outstanding.

And yes, the last two covers are horrible and have very little to do with the books. Pah!

### **Peter Brander says**

Number 3 is a cheat. It is a completely different story, which involves some of the characters from the first two books. But between the story chapters, we get some central new facts, turnings and characters. Michael Flynn could just as well have put those pages into the beginning of book n. 4. But he didn't.

Oh, well...

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### **Annabel Cervantes says**

I think Flynn decided how he wanted this book 3 to end and just schlep everything else to fill the pages. Disappointing and a waste of time!

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### **Alex Shrugged says**

"Lodestar" is book 3 of the Firestar series by Michael Flynn. It was OK. It did not continue the action scene from the ending of the second book but chose to continue with the general character development.

The Story: A manned probe is sent to a near-Earth asteroid. We also follow Jacinta Rosario, a new cadet hoping to fly in space. She is different though. She belongs to a group called the Silver Apples who have trained her in how to maintain her chastity. That training comes into play in several scenes.

Any problems? Well... as I recall there is some lesbian stuff... not too strong... just some kissing and some towel snapping in the showers. I can see how it fits into the story but I think it could have been avoided. Every person to his own tastes. I was not disturbed by it. I was disturbed by the lesbian stuff and the hetero sex in the followup book where the girl characters seem to act out of character... different from how they are here. Too bad. The author missed an opportunity to teach a lesson. I don't know what kind of lesson but he blew it in favor of a hot kiss.

I don't know how they decided on the cover art. The two women in the picture do not go to the asteroid.

Oh, well... like I said... it's not too bad but I wouldn't let my kids read it.

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### **Matt aka says**

Lodestar is the third book in the SciFi Firestar series. The story continues to focus in strong character development and technical details. Jimmy Poole is one of the best characters in the book. He is one of the best computer users in the world and is in an interesting virtual battle online.

The number of characters and their depth is really impressive throughout the entire series. There is also a young woman in training to be a space pilot that feels she has something to prove. Early on she missed the flight to school which was very lucky as the plane crashed. Another woman always wanted to be a dancer but after a horrible accident ends up losing an arm and a leg and becomes a highly skilled computer user in the online world known as the "Virtch".

Everyone is gong about their lives but earth is in tremendous danger because and asteroid has been steered directly at it.

I really enjoy thus series and find the writing and characters to be very interesting. They evolve and grow but I still feel this book was paced a little slower than I like so I give it four out of five stars.

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### **Snail in Danger (Sid) Nicolaides says**

Several new characters are introduced. Some of the Space Academy kids are intriguing, but many of the others seem like they should have been active participants or at least appeared in previous books if they existed.

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### **Chris says**

I was happy to see Mr Flynn ease up on the Randian philosophy in this installment of the series. Yet, the story seemed unnecessarily drawn out - I kept hoping that he would 'get to the point'. Also he seems all too enthused with feeling clever for writing long winded, pedantic recitations of his version of computer hacking, filled with lots of his invented jargon. It reminded me a bit of O Henry's penchant for using big words to impress his readers, not realizing that he used them incorrectly. Also, while the "mega wealthy people manipulating and influencing people, governments and business to the 'greater good'" theme was not as 'in your face' as the previous books - the set up of the easily predicted asteroid collision danger surely seems to be furthering the straw man fallacy of that theme. Overall a decent read, but definitely not the best of the series.

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### **Mark Krueger says**

The beginning of this book is a bit different from the first two in the series. At first I wasn't enjoying it as much as the earlier books. By the middle I was thoroughly enjoying it -- and this continued through to the end. It's a great read; and I'm thoroughly impressed with Michael Flynn.

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### **Brian Maicke says**

The third of Flynn's near future space flight saga. This book was a slight departure from the space flight infrastructure building of the first two books, as Jimmy Poole featured prominently. The result is that a large portion of the book was an internet thriller type novel. Still a good read, but it did not resonate with me as the previous books have. Still, the ending was strong and I look forward to reading the conclusion of the series.

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### **Ben says**

The near-future (2030s) science was all right, but the book kept trying to be a harlequin romance novel, all "warm, yielding flesh" and "urgent thrusts". This, combined with the fact that there were so many characters that most of them were caricatures, made things more than a little comical at times.

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### **Jamie Collins says**

This is the third book in Flynn's near-future (and consequently dated, now) science fiction series about the development of private space exploration initiatives. This entry takes us through the years 2015-2017, when travel to and from low Earth orbit is commonplace and there are multiple space stations in orbit as well as facilities on the moon.

Mariesa Van Huyten's obsession over the possibility of a civilization-destroying meteor impact seems to be justified by the discovery of several near-Earth-orbit asteroids which have experienced artificial course changes - is someone or something aiming them at us?

We see the early development of the solar "sail" which is depicted as obsolete technology in Flynn's novel *The Wreck of the River of Stars*, set a century later in this same universe.

Flynn is an excellent writer and I like this series very much, although this particular book is fairly weak. I was bored to tears by Jimmy Poole's cyberspace maneuvers, but then I'm not a fan of the cyberpunk genre. The rest of the book seemed to be merely an echo of the earlier stories, without much new substance. Still, I will continue on to the next and last book.

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### **Jacob says**

I was pretty disappointed with this book. It didn't really contribute to the overall story developed in the first two books. The author tried to imagine and create a different culture. He made up a lot of words and slang for this. Unfortunately rather than enrich the world it only succeeded in confusing me. "It's the genuine bean", "he's bone", "I'm not that herbie". It was hard to tell if these were good or bad. Or if it was relative to the speaker and subject.

Also, the author explores futuristic tech. But a lot is simply babel. More made up jargon. I concepts are vague and implausible.

As mentioned, aside from having familiar characters, it didn't really fit with previous books. I've enjoyed the series so far. But if it weren't for paddive ease of audiobooks, I probably wouldn't have made it through this.

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